Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

The claims have been amended to place them in better formal shape and to overcome the §101 rejection. They now clearly define a specific method with specific steps in no way resembling a standard thought process.

More specifically, claim 1 has been amended by incorporating in it the features of now canceled dependent claims 4, 5 and 6, in particular that the request to access the content is "in form of speech". In addition the claim now recites the step of "determining if the speech request for accessing the content includes at least one keyword of the vocabulary" has been added. Furthermore in the last step "traversing a path in the navigation tree to retrieve content related to the one keyword in the request" has been added.

Claims 16 and 17 have been deleted because claim 16 should depend on claim 15 instead of claim 11, therefore they should belong to the set of claims 13-17 (not elected). Claims 21 and 39 have been amended, as generally described above for claim 1 by specifying that the request to access the content is "in form of speech" and that "the second node has at least one keyword identifying content included in the second node.

Claims 1-12, 16-17 and 21-43 stand rejected under §103 in view of US 5,878,421 of Ferrel in view of US 6,714,939 of Saldanha. Ferrel discloses a system for publishing contents on a network and for automatically creating navigation links in a publication. Nodes are in general OLE objects, so that any content can be included in a node, and navigation is based on the user's direct interaction with the outline control (i.e. clicking with the mouse on a particular piece of the structure would cause the title to navigate to that location). Ferrel therefore does not disclose that the navigation tree has a grammar comprising a vocabulary including keywords, that a user request "is in form of speech," that the request is compared with the vocabulary to find a match, and that a path is traversed in the tree to retrieve a content related to a keyword matched.

Saldanha discloses a method for generating structured data from plain text, based on the grammar Of a natural language. Structured data is used for populating a database or for retrieving data from a database. The method starts with a plain text sentence in natural language (e.g. English), and operates by applying a grammar for the natural language to derive all parses of the given sentence, mapping each parse outputted by the parser into an instance tree of objects to derive an object representation of the sentence, and creating a reduced form of the object representation as an instance of a Domain Markup Language (DML). The grammar used in Saldanha is a complete grammar of a natural language and is used for understanding a natural language sentence as instructions and
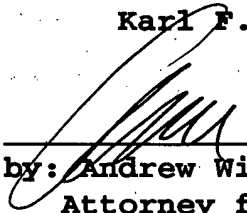
building a component tree that is then further simplified before it
is passed to a program for execution. In the method according to
the invention the grammar comprises a vocabulary of keywords and is
used for comparing one or more words in a user request with entries
of the vocabulary. With particular reference to claims 21 and 39,
claiming the feature that the grammar is expanded by adding to the
vocabulary the keywords of the visited node, Saldanha (column 12,
line 50 through column 13, line 15 and FIGS. 3A-3C cited by the
Examiner) discloses a grammar whose architecture is expanded from 9
to 14 nodes, such expansion involving adding parse trees, not
keywords to a vocabulary as in the present invention.

Furthermore US 6,088,867 of MacKenty is concerned with
auditory representation of documents, in particular for
communicating by sound the contents of documents coded in Standard
General Markup Language (SGML). The user can control the
presentation of the document, e.g. start and stop the reading of
the document, jump forward or backward by phrases or sentences, by
pressing keys on a numeric keypad or even through voice commands,
however the document revolves around a speech-synthesis device and
a sonification engine for producing sounds associated to SGML tag
types encountered in a page.

Thus, he subject matter of new claim 1, as well as claims
21 and 39, is therefore not disclosed in, nor derivable from, the
prior art documents cited above. All claims are allowable.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Request for extension (two months)